

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5156

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MARR, XA, LI, PORG
SUBJECT: LIBERIAN OPPOSITION ACTIVITY IN THE U.S.

REF: MONROVIA 5112

1. AT THE CLOSE OF MY DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT, REPORTED REFTEL, TOLBERT ADVISED ME THAT A GROUP OF LIBERIAN "SOCIALIST-MINDED STUDENTS" IN THE UNITED STATES PLANNED TO CONDUCT ANTI-GOL DEMONSTRATIONS ON LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY JULY 26. HE SAID THESE STUDENTS PLANNED TO ATTACK GOL POLICIES, CRITICIZE THE GOL ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS, AND TO CALL ON THE U.S. TO WITHHOLD AID TO THE GOL. THE INFORMATION, HE SAID, HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HIM BY THE LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT IMPLYING THAT HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO STOP SUCH A DEMONSTRATION.

2. HE DESCRIBED THESE STUDENTS AS BELONGING TO THE SAME GROUP WHICH WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER VISITED MONROVIA AND AS BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVEMENT OF JUSTICE IN AFRICA AND DR. TOGBA NAH TIPOTEH. HE REFERRED TO THEM AS A SMALL GROUP OF DISSIDENTS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNIST TEACHINGS AND DOCTRINE AND SAID THAT FOR THE PRESENT HE PERMITS THEM TO GO AHEAD
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WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NATION HAS LAWS TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO PROMOTE "DISINTEGRATION" AND "SECTIONALISM" AND IMPLIED THAT SOME DAY THESE MIGHT BE USED TO DEAL WITH SUCH PERSONS.

3. COMMENT: THE MUCH GREATER TOLERANCE OF DISSIDENTS UNDER THE TOLBERT ADMINISTRATION CONTRASTS WITH THE

SITUATION UNDER TUBMAN AND HAS BEEN USED BY MOJA AND ITS ADHERENTS TO WORK ASSIDUOUSLY WITHIN THE STUDENT COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE WHAT ARE IN FACT MARXIST NOTIONS. THE PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN RESTRAINT BUT IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT ONE DAY HE WILL USE PRESENT LAWS FORBIDDING SECTIONALISM, TRIBALISM AND COUNTYISM TO ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. IF THAT DAY COMES, WE MAY EXPECT THEIR SYMPATHIZERS ABROAD TO RAISE THE BANNER OF "HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THEIR DEFENSE. IT IS JUST THIS POSSIBILITY WHICH HAS PROBABLY PREVENTED THE ADMINISTRATION FROM TAKING MORE SEVERE ACTION AGAINST THEM. THE GOL STILL MUST FACE THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE UNDOUBTED INFLUENCE AMONG IMPRESSIONABLE YOUTH, MANY OF THEM FROM LESS PRIVILEGED BACKGROUNDS, OF PROPAGANDISTS AND PROFESSORS WHO ARE ESPOUSING WHAT ARE, AT ROOT, DOCTRINES FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED TO THOSE ON WHICH THE GOL IS BASED. THESE DOCTRINES ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM CURRENT SOVIET STANDS WITH REGARD TO IMPERIALISM (THE U.S. AS THE CHIEF IMPERIALIST ENEMY) AND TO CAPITALISM (THE EXPLOITER OF THE WORKING MAN).

CARTER

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NNN

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